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By Eli Yokley

## Week in Review

### The White House

- Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, pleaded guilty to lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation about conversations he had with the Russian ambassador to the United States in December 2016 during the presidential transition. Flynn said he was cooperating with the investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is probing Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible ties to Trump's associates.
- The White House has reportedly devised a plan to force out Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and replace him with Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo. The plan would involve Sen. Tom Cotton (R Ark.) replacing Pompeo as head of the CIA. Trump denied that Tillerson is on his way out.
- Trump repeatedly pressured Republican senators to end the Senate Intelligence Committee's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election, according to Committee Chairman Richard Burr (R N.C.). While a spokesman for the White House said Trump did not act improperly, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D Calif.), the panel's former chairwoman, said the requests were "inappropriate" and a breach of the separation of powers.
- Trump threatened to impose new sanctions on North Korea following the country's latest test of an intercontinental missile that some experts say could reach the entire U.S. Eastern Seaboard. Tillerson said the

Treasury Department will announce a "long list" of new sanctions against North Korea.

- Trump shared videos on Twitter from an ultranationalist British party account that purportedly show Muslims committing acts of violence. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders defended the retweets, saying that Trump was talking about the need for national security and defense spending, while the office of British Prime Minister Theresa May issued a statement saying, "It is wrong for the president to have done this."
- A federal judge in Washington sided with Trump by refusing to block White House budget director Mick Mulvaney, appointed by the president to be acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, from taking charge of the agency. Leandra English, the CFPB's deputy director, had requested an emergency restraining order, arguing that she should be acting director since then Director Richard Cordray appointed her as his successor before he resigned.

## **Congress**

- The Senate passed its tax reform bill on a 51-49 vote. Sen. Bob Corker (R Tenn.), who raised concerns about the measure's long term effect on the federal budget deficit, was the only Republican to vote against the legislation. No Democrats voted for it.
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D Calif.) pulled out of a planned meeting with Trump and GOP leaders after Trump tweeted that he does not "see a deal" with the Democrats on government funding ahead of a Dec. 8 deadline.
- Rep. Ruben Kihuen (D Nev.) was accused of harassing and making sexual advances toward his former campaign finance director during his 2016 campaign. Pelosi and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D N.M.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, called on the freshman lawmaker to resign.
- Pelosi and the highest ranking African American in the House, Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn of South Carolina, were among party leaders who said Rep. John Conyers should resign amid allegations of sexual harassment. The Michigan Democrat has denied any wrongdoing and said, through his attorney, that he has no plans to resign or retire.
- Sen. Al Franken (D Minn.) faced more pressure to resign following another allegation of sexual harassment against him and the pressure



on Conyers. The Senate Ethics Committee confirmed that it has opened a "preliminary inquiry" into the allegations against Franken.

- The House adopted a resolution that would require lawmakers and their staff to undergo annual trainings that address workplace harassment and discrimination. The Senate adopted a similar resolution on Nov. 9.
  - Rep. Joe Barton (R Texas) said he will not seek re election next year, an announcement that came three weeks after he said he would seek an 18th term in Congress. Barton's private life has come under scrutiny after sexually explicit images and lewd messages from extramarital relationships surfaced online.
  - Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D Ill.) said he will not seek re election next year, and he endorsed Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia for the Democratic nomination to succeed him. Gutiérrez, who's in his 13th term in the House, said he wants to spend time helping to rebuild hurricane ravaged Puerto Rico.
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## What's Ahead

- Both the House and Senate are in session this week.
  - Government funding is scheduled to run out on Dec. 8. House Republicans are considering a plan that would extend funding through Dec. 22 to allow more time for negotiations on a long term spending measure.
  - Trump is set to travel to Salt Lake City on Monday to announce that he will shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments.
  - The White House said Trump is not planning to campaign for Roy Moore, the Republican nominee for Senate in Alabama's Dec. 12 special election. But it is reportedly considering other ways to activate Trump's base to support Moore.
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**Events Calendar (All Times Local)****MONDAY**

No events scheduled

**TUESDAY**

Axios event on health care innovation 8 a.m.

Washington Post event on HIV/AIDS 8:30 a.m.

Senate Banking Committee confirmation hearing for Fed chairman nominee 10 a.m.

Brookings Institution event on Public Religion Research Institute's 2017 American Values Survey 10 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

California Attorney General Becerra speaks at National Press Club 10 a.m.

Sen. Burr speaks at Council on Foreign Relations event 12:45 p.m.

Sen. Coons speaks at ITIF event on the economy 1 p.m.

House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Brexit negotiations 2 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

ACCF event on Trump's economic policy agenda 9:30 a.m.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event on sanctions for nonproliferation 10 a.m.

Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department's acquisition reform efforts 10 a.m.

FBI director testifies before House Judiciary Committee 10 a.m.

CSIS event on OPEC's World Oil Outlook 2017 2 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

**CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE EVENT ON CHINA AND THE U.S.-JAPAN  
ALLIANCE**

**10:30 A.M.**

**TRUMP CAMPAIGN RALLY IN PENSACOLA, FLA.**

**7 P.M.**

**NEW: COMMUNITY IMPACT RANKINGS**

**WHICH BRANDS MAKE THE BEST IMPACT ON YOUR  
COMMUNITY?**

OVER 300,000 AMERICANS WEIGH IN ON THE COMPANIES THAT ARE  
DOING THE MOST FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES.

**MORNING CONSULT WASHINGTON TOP READS**

**1) IS CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS A SECRET LIBERAL?**  
OLIVER ROEDER, FIVETHIRTYEIGHT

**2) CORPORATE TAX RATE IN FLUX AS SENATE VOTES TO OPEN  
DEBATE**  
SIOBHAN HUGHES AND RICHARD RUBIN, THE WALL STREET  
JOURNAL

**3) JUDGE IN CFPB LEADERSHIP LAWSUIT SAYS HE WILL ACT  
QUICKLY**  
LALITA CLOZEL, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**4) JUDGE SIDES WITH TRUMP'S PICK TO TAKE OVER CONSUMER  
AGENCY**  
JESSICA GRESKO AND KEN SWEET, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**5) HOUSE PANEL VOTES TO EXPAND RIGHT TO CARRY CONCEALED  
GUNS IN VICTORY FOR NRA**  
MIKE DEBONIS, THE WASHINGTON POST

**6) FOLLOWING SENATE, HOUSE MANDATES SEXUAL HARASSMENT**



TRAINING

KATHERINE TULLY MCMANUS, ROLL CALL

**7) GUTIÉRREZ WON'T SEEK REELECTION**

NATASHA KORECKI, POLITICO

**8) BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF CONSUMER AGENCY HEADS TO COURT**

STACY COWLEY, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**9) REPUBLICANS REWRITING TAX BILL HOURS BEFORE POSSIBLE VOTE**

SEUNG MIN KIM AND COLIN WILHELM, POLITICO

**10) WITH UNCANNY TWISTS AND AN ALLEGEDLY ROGUE REGISTRAR, VIRGINIA HOUSE LEFT IN LIMBO**

LAURA VOZZELLA, THE WASHINGTON POST

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